

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 SP-02

AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

TAR-01 INT-05 /125 W

----- 125785

R 301407Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2175

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 2425

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SF

SUBJ: US GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES (GSP) AND
COMMONWEALTH PREFERENCE ISSUE

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REF: (A) STATE 111968

(B) PRETORIA 2218 (NOTAL)

(C) COLOMBO 2037

1. REFTEL (B) DISCUSSED TARRIF PREFERENCES ACCORDED TO SOUTH AFRICA BY LDC'S OTHER THAN SRI LANKA. THIS MESSAGE CONCERNS ONLY SRI LANKA.

2. SAG TELLS US THAT SRI LANKA STILL GRANTS PREFERENCES TO SOUTH AFRICA. SAG SAYS THAT THESE WERE ORIGINALLY GRANTED IN A 1947 GATT NEGOTIATION (PRESUMABLY THE NEGOTIATION THAT LED TO ESTABLISHMENT OF GATT IN 48), THAT THEY HAVE NO TERMINAL DATE, AND THAT SRI LANKA WOULD HAVE TO RENEGOTIATE IN GATT TO CHANGE THEM.

3. PREFERENCES COVER GLYCERINE, STEARINE, HYDROGEN PEROXIDE, MINERAL JELLY, COPPER SUKPHATE, AMMONIA, CALCIUM CARBIDE, OXYGEN, INORGANIC GASES, INORGANIC COMPOUNDS, CHLOROFORM, TAR OILS, CRUDE CHEMICALS FROM COAL, GLASS POWDER, BICARBONATE OF SODA, WATTLE BARK EXTRACT, NAPHTHALINE, ORGANIC COMPOUNDS, CREOSOTE, DEXTRINE AND WOOK PRESERVATIVES.

4. SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE STATISTICS SHOW \$6 MILLION OF EXPORTS TO SRI LANKA IN 1974. ONLY \$500 THOUSAND WAS UNDER BTN SECTION VI (CHEMICALS), THE SECTION THAT SEEMS TO APPLY TO MOST OF THESE ITEMS. WE CONCLUDE THAT THESE PREFERENCES PROBABLY DO NOT "HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE EFFECT ON U.S. COMMERCE."

5. NOT SURPRISINGLY, WE FIND SAG SOMEWHAT RELUCTANT TO GIVE INFORMATION THAT THEY KNOW WE WILL USE TO ATTACK THE TARRIF ADVANTAGES THEY STILL ENJOY IN A FEW LDC'S. ASSUME POSTS IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE EXPERICENCED SAME RELUCTANCE. BOWDLER

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